



REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES - ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTATION

11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The criteria adopted by the Heritage Council in November 1996 have been used to determine the cultural heritage significance of the place.

The documentation for this place is based on the heritage assessment completed by Wayne Moredount, Historian, and Palassis Architects, in August 2003, with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 7.6.4 Dispensing Justice

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 403 Law and Order

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

Pinjarra Court House (fmr) is a good example of a modest court house constructed in the Inter-War Georgian Revival style with Art Deco stylistic detailing. The overall form is restrained and well proportioned and, like many buildings at this time, it combines functionality with a defiant flourish of detailing. The projecting front portico is classically inspired and the internal plasterwork detailing is in stylised low relief. The built-in timber furniture, while modest in scale, has been well designed and crafted. (Criterion 1.1)

Pinjarra Court House (fmr) makes a significant contribution to the streetscape. It is one of a number of historic buildings located along George Street, the main street of Pinjarra. (Criterion 1.4)

* For consistency, all references to architectural style are taken from Apperly, Richard; Irving, Robert and Reynolds, Peter *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture: Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, Angus & Robertson, North Ryde, 1989.

11. 2. HISTORIC VALUE

The site of *Pinjarra Court House (fmr)* has functioned as a court since c.1864, and as such the place is associated with the system of magistracy that was established in the area from c.1840. (Criterion 2.2)

Pinjarra Court House (fmr) was constructed as a result of the growth of the town of Pinjarra, as the commercial and administrative centre of the Murray district. (Criterion 2.2)

Pinjarra Court House (fmr) was designed by the Architectural Division of the Public Works Department under the direction of A.E. (Paddy) Clare in the mid-1930s at a time when the State government resumed public building, as the State's economy slowly improved following the Depression. (Criterion 2.2)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Pinjarra Court House (fmr) is highly valued by the local community for its judicial functions, as evidenced by the strong community campaign attempting to prevent its closure in the late twenty-first century. (Criterion 4.1)

Pinjarra Court House (fmr) contributes to the local community's sense of place as a prominent public building in the main street, both in its own right, and as part of a civic complex including the adjoining Post Office and Police Station. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

Pinjarra Court House (fmr) is rare as a court house constructed in Western Australia in the 1930s. Furthermore, it is probably the only court house in the State constructed in the Inter-War Georgian Revival style. (Criterion 5.1)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Pinjarra Court House (fmr) is an example of the Inter-War Georgian Revival style of architecture as applied to small-scale public buildings. (Criterion 6.1)

Pinjarra Court House (fmr) demonstrates the functions of a court house in a regional centre of Western Australia. (Criterion 6.2)

12. 3 CONDITION

Pinjarra Court House (fmr) is in a fair to good condition. The building shows evidence of a recent lack of maintenance. Externally, the building shows evidence of deterioration to the paintwork. Internally, there are a number of cracks to the walls in the court room and the front rooms. There is evidence of water damage to the ceiling in the Clerk of Court's room. There is

evidence of extensive termite damage to the door and architrave between the Clerk of Court's room and the court room.

12.4 INTEGRITY

Pinjarra Court House (fmr) no longer functions as a court house. However it continues to function as a facility for government purposes. It has a moderate degree of integrity.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

Pinjarra Court House (fmr) has a high level of authenticity. It remains largely as constructed. The flagpole to the front has been removed. The sashes to the front elevation have been replaced with single pane glazing. Internally, the wall and door between the general office (former witnesses' room) has been removed and a counter located in this position. The ceiling to the court room has been modified. The built-in furniture has been modified with timber safety rails. An single storey addition has been constructed to the rear.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentary evidence has been compiled by Wayne Moredoundt, Historian and the physical evidence has been compiled by Palassis Architects. Additional documentary evidence has been provided by Helen Burgess, Heritage Council staff.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Pinjarra Court House (fmr) (1935) is a rendered brick and tile building, situated in a prominent location on George Street, Pinjarra. It is sited between the Post Office (1895) and Police Station (1897, 1962), forming an important civic precinct in the town.

Before European settlement, the Pinjarra district was inhabited by the Bibbulman people. Early maps of the area recorded the name of the place as 'pinjarrup'- 'place of the swamp'- which later became 'Pinjarrah' and finally, 'Pinjarra'.¹

The first recorded European exploration of the Murray District was in November 1829, when two whale boats commanded by Lieutenant R.N. Preston and Dr Alexander Collie sailed from Cockburn Sound into the lower reaches of the Murray River. The following year, Thomas Peel sent a group of settlers to the district, where they found the conditions unpromising. In 1834, some of the Murray settlers discovered more fertile land further upstream on the river, but their attempts to establish themselves in the area were hindered by the local Aboriginal people, who resisted the settlers' advance.²

In October 1834, an expedition to survey the Pinjarra area was led by Governor James Stirling, and the Surveyor-General, John S. Roe. With them was a contingent of armed soldiers and civilians, determined to punish the Aboriginal men they believed responsible for the death of a young soldier, who had been killed some months previously. On 28 October, the party attacked some 60 to 80 local Aboriginal people resulting in the deaths of around half of this group, with minimal loss of life on the British side. After this, fear of retaliation from the remainder of the Aboriginal population of the area gradually receded, and in 1836, a military post was established at Pinjarra on what was to become George Street.³

With settlers occupying Crown Grants along the Murray River, a surveyor, Smythe, was sent to mark out a town site. In 1840 and 1841, roads linking Pinjarra with Fremantle and Canning were constructed. However, the population of Pinjarra increased only slowly, with the military barracks housing six troops, and only a few farms in the surrounding area. Until the 1860s, the barracks (built on the site of the present police station and Court

¹ HCWA Brochure, *Heritage Trail: Pinjarrah, Settlement of the Murray River District*, 'Introduction', n.d.

² *Heritage Trail: Pinjarrah*, 'Introduction'.

³ Roland Richards, *The Murray District of Western Australia: A History*, Shire of Murray, 1978, p. 85.

House) and St John's Church, at the north end of town near the bridge (built in 1840) were the only buildings within the town site.⁴

In 1841, Francis Corbett Singleton was appointed by the Governor to the position of Resident Magistrate of the Murray District, on a stipend of 50 pounds a year. In this role he was responsible, amongst other duties, for collecting various license fees and fines, valuing land for the awarding of Crown Grants, directing public works in progress, witnessing documents, acting as the local agent for the Bank of Western Australia, and administering justice. In this latter function, he held court at Oakley Inn, on the east bank of the Murray. The Magistrate was to hold court once or twice each month with special sessions if matters of importance arose suddenly.⁵

Furthermore, in a government circular forwarded to Magistrates in 1839, it was noted that 'it will be the duty of the Government Residents to exercise a general Superintendence over all the Civil Affairs of the District committed to his charge' and to 'consider himself the Curator of all descriptions of Public Property' in his charge. The Magistrate also had a responsibility to 'promote Religion and Education among the Native Inhabitants of his District', to 'protect them' and 'prevent and restrain all violence and injustice' against them. To this list of responsibilities, a later circular added that the Magistrates were to consider themselves as 'the Eyes of the Government', to 'watch over the Interests of their fellow Citizens', and to 'advance the welfare of a Country in which as Colonists they are so materially interested'.⁶

In 1846, after Francis Singleton applied for, and was granted a leave of absence from his position as Magistrate, the Colonial Secretary appointed David Smythe Murray in his place.⁷ In 1852, the military post at Pinjarra was closed down. After repairs and alterations were carried out, the former barracks were used to accommodate the police officer stationed in the town. Some time later, a special room was built for the Magistrate within the Police Barracks at Pinjarra, so that courts could be held and office work attended to.⁸

In 1854, Murray was appointed Justice for the Local Petty Debt Court. From that same year, the Magistrate was required to act as paymaster to the police constables. Two years later, Murray requested the Colonial Secretary to forward a more up-to-date copy of *The Justice of the Peace and Parish Officer*, a manual issued for the guidance of Magistrates. As Murray's copy had been printed in 1825, he was concerned it might be out of date, leading to errors in his administration of justice.⁹

In 1857, the Crown Grant for what was to become Pinjarra Lot B, upon which the Police Barracks were located, was formerly issued

⁴ Richards, *The Murray District*, p. 106.

⁵ Richards, *The Murray District*, pp. 167-168.

⁶ Richards, *The Murray District*, pp. 167-168.

⁷ Richards, *The Murray District*, pp. 237-238.

⁸ The exact date is not recorded. Richards, *The Murray District*, p. 265.

⁹ Richards, *The Murray District*, p. 298.

‘...in the name of William Fisher Mends, Deputy Commissary General of Her Majesty’s Forces in the Colony and Deputy Ordinance Storekeeper for and on behalf of Her Majesty’.¹⁰

Keeping order in the community was made more difficult for the Magistrate where alcohol was involved. After an inn opened at Dandalup in 1861, Murray requested the Governor to build a lockup at Pinjarra as ‘there [was] certain to be a very considerable amount of drunkenness and riot’. Although Murray’s prediction of trouble was to be proved correct, it was a few years before a proper lockup was built at the Pinjarra police station.¹¹

In March 1864, tender was finally advertised for repairs to the police station and quarters, a magistrate’s room and for cells. The tender was awarded to Andrew Cornish, the contract price being £192.10.¹² In 1865, Cornish’s brother, William, built the police stables for £64.¹³

Early in 1865, Pinjarra townsite had been laid out to surveys prepared by T.C. Carey, with the town’s streets all located on the west bank of the Murray River. Soon after, the 89 town allotments of half an acre, and the 69 suburban lots of five acres each, were available for private purchase.¹⁴

In 1868 a contract for additions and alterations to the court house and station was awarded to George Postans for £91.¹⁵ The works involved the upgrading of the station and the old cell block was converted into living quarters for the policeman and his family stationed there.¹⁶

A later photograph of the court house (taken in 1925) indicates that the building was of masonry construction, with a shingle roof, with classic-style columns on each side of a recessed porch.¹⁷ The court room measured thirty-six feet six inches by sixteen feet six inches, with a room each side eighteen feet six inches by seventeen feet three inches. ¹⁸ Following the formation of a committee to manage the maintenance of roads in the Pinjarra district in 1868, meetings for this group were held in the court house.¹⁹

By the early 1870s, the small township of Pinjarra was firmly established. Apart from the police station, court house, church and school, there was a hotel, a post office, a store, and half a dozen houses, while the main street,

¹⁰ Memo from Under Secretary for Lands to Under Secretary for Works, 11/5/1961, in DOLA file 01927-1982-01RO Reserves – Police Reserve 26081 Pinjarra Lot 219 [held at DOLA]. In 1862 the vesting was changed and reissued to the Principal Secretary of State for the War Department

¹¹ Richards, *The Murray District*, pp. 302-303.

¹² *Government Gazette*, 1/1/1864.

¹³ Richards, *The Murray District*, p. 373.

¹⁴ Richards, *The Murray District*, pp. 372-373.

¹⁵ *Government Gazette*, 25/2/1868, p. 44.

¹⁶ Richards, *The Murray District*, p. 373.

¹⁷ Photograph facing p. 156, Richards, *The Murray District*.

¹⁸ Pinjarra- Police Reserve, Block Plan 1887, Courthouse and Police Quarters, Plans and sketches, 1888, PWD WA 159. Ray and John Oldham, *Western Heritage Part 2: George Temple-Poole: Architect of the Golden Years, 1885-1897*, UWA Press, Perth, 1980, p. 174. Richards, *The Murray District*, p. 435.

¹⁹ Richards, *The Murray District*, pp. 361-362, 367.

which had been originally constructed by convict labour, was surfaced with stone. By this time, the police station comprised a house for the police constable, cells, magistrate's rooms, storehouses and the stables which serviced both the police horses as well as acting as the change station for the Royal Mail on route to the south. In 1873, the buildings were re-shingled.²⁰

In 1888, the court house was repaired by local Edward McLarty for a cost of £48.15.0, who was also engaged the following year to erect a fence.²¹

In July 1888, the Pinjarra police stopped running the Royal Mail coach service and the police mail drivers transferred away, after which time the police station 'became a much quieter place' and the police were left to attend to their more routine duties of law and order.²²

By 1891, the police station and court house were reported as being 'barely fit for human habitation' and a petition was circulated through the community.²³ In September, a deputation of Murray residents, led by William Paterson, met with the Premier to plea their case. As well as the new station and court house, they also wanted a residence for the magistrate built because of concerns that if one was not provided soon they would not be able to retain the services of their local magistrate. The Premier, however, did not support the deputation's request.²⁴

In May 1893, the first part of the South-West Railway, the line from East Perth to Pinjarra, was opened. In August of the same year, a further section to Picton Junction and Bunbury was completed. The railway brought the town and district increased prosperity, with additional shops opening and other amenities established.²⁵

In 1895, a two-storied Post and Telegraph Office was built to a design by Government Architect, George Temple-Poole, on the corner of George and James Streets, next to the court house on Pinjarra Lot B.²⁶ After the Post Office was built, Pinjarra Lot B was re-surveyed and a portion excised, being Lot 216 and containing the Post Office building only, and the State Government compensated accordingly.²⁷

²⁰ Pinjarra- Police Reserve, Block Plan 1887, Courthouse and Police Quarters, Plans and sketches, 1888, PWD WA 159. Ray and John Oldham, *Western Heritage Part 2: George Temple-Poole: Architect of the Golden Years, 1885-1897*, UWA Press, Perth, 1980, p. 174. Richards, *The Murray District*, p. 373.

²¹ *Government Gazette*, 13/12/1888, p. 778. Richards, Ron, *Mandurah and the Murray District: a sequel history of the Old Murray District of Western Australia*, Shire of Murray & City of Mandurah, 1993, p. 61.

²² Richards, Ron, *Mandurah and the Murray District*, p. 133.

²³ Richards, Ron, *Mandurah and the Murray District*, p. 133.

²⁴ *West Australian*, 18/9/1891; Richards, Ron, *Mandurah and the Murray District*, pp. 133-134.

²⁵ Richards, *The Murray District*, pp. 439, 453. *Souvenir Brochure, Shire of Murray, 1829-1964*, 1964, p. 9.

²⁶ Heritage and Conservation Professionals, *Pinjarra Post Office: Conservation Plan*, 2002, p. 10.

²⁷ Memo from O.C. Roads and Reserves to Divisional Surveyor, 2/5/1961, in DOLA file 01927-1982-01RO Reserves – Police Reserve 26081 Pinjarra Lot 219 [held at DOLA].

In 1897, a new Pinjarra Police Station and Quarters was erected, the contractor being Leonard Wrigley, for price of £1125.10.6.²⁸ The new station consisted of an office, residence, two cells and exercise yard. It was built on Pinjarra Lot B George Street, the same site as the existing court rooms and old police quarters.²⁹

In 1913, a branch of the St John Ambulance Society was formed in Pinjarra, a Roman Catholic Church erected, and moving pictures shown regularly. By this time, the town possessed two butchers, a baker, two storekeepers, a newsagent, a fancy-goods store, a barber's shop, a nurse, and a blacksmith.

With the outbreak of war in 1914, many of the district's able-bodied men left to join the fighting, this de-population having a negative effect on the economic growth of the area. After the war, Pinjarra again expanded its population.

In 1921, a new Government school was opened in Pinjarra, and the old school building became the location for the court house soon after.³⁰ The reason for the relocation was that the old court house - as described in the local paper at the time - was by now a 'decayed mass of mortar and mouldy jarrah' and was earmarked for demolition.³¹

In 1922, the Mechanics Hall, built around 1883, was enlarged to double its original size. By 1925, the Pinjarra Branch of the Country Women's Association was formed, and a cool-drink factory, the Pinjarra Aerated Water Company, was in operation in the town. The following year, electricity came to Pinjarra.³² By this time the old court house had been demolished.³³

By 1930, economic depression negatively affected Pinjarra, as it did the rest of Western Australia. Throughout the district, sustenance workers were employed on road works, on constructing a diversion channel from the Harvey River to the ocean, in snagging the Murray and Serpentine Rivers, on digging drains in the Coolup area, and in forestry work. By the mid-1930s, however, conditions were improving throughout the economy of the State.

While the depression had curtailed the activities of the Architectural Division of the PWD in the early 1930s, by the mid-1930s public building resumed, as the State's economy slowly improved. In 1934, designs for the new *Pinjarra Court House (fmr)* were prepared by the Architectural Division of the Public Works Department under the direction of A.E (Paddy) Clare.³⁴ As with many PWD projects at this time, the design of the new *Pinjarra Court House*

²⁸ *Government Gazette*, 13/8/1897, p. 1637.

²⁹ Richards, *The Murray District*, p. 435.

³⁰ Richards, *The Murray District*, pp. 465-467.

³¹ As recorded in *Mandurah Telegraph*, 21/4/1998.

³² Richards, *The Murray District*, pp. 462-464.

³³ Richards, *The Murray District*, p. 464. A photograph of the old court house was taken in 1925 just prior to it being demolished.

³⁴ PWD WA Plans # 27710, Pinjarrah New Court House, 3/12/1934.

(*fmr*) reflected the renewed confidence in the economy, combining functionality with a defiant flourish of detailing.³⁵

Pinjarra Court House (fmr) was to be built between the Post Office and the Police Station, on the same site once occupied by the earlier, now demolished, court house. In January 1935, the building contract was awarded to E. Ward for a cost of £1327, and work commenced immediately.³⁶

Pinjarra Court House (fmr) was a rendered brick and tile building, with a formal portico, surmounted by a flag pole (since removed), opening to a passage way, with a Magistrate's Room on one side and a room for witnesses on the other. In the back three fifths of the building was the Court Room, with the Bench on the south west of the room, the police entrance on the south, and the public entrance on the north-east wall of the room, opening into a waiting room. Separate male and female toilets were constructed at the rear of *Pinjarra Court House (fmr)*.³⁷ As was its usual practice, the PWD also designed the built-in furniture for the Court Room, which was constructed largely in jarrah.³⁸

On 7 June 1935, the official opening of *Pinjarra Court House (fmr)* was reported in the local paper:

After years of waiting and agitation the town of Pinjarra is at last is [sic.] possession of a magnificent building that is at once not only an adornment to the town, but one well fitted to take pride of place in any town of much bigger size than Pinjarra. The beautiful building is a distinct credit to the Principal Architect and officers of the Public Works Department, to the Supervisor (Mr C Angel) and the contractor and builder (Mr E Ward).³⁹

The official opening was performed by the Hon. J. J. Kenneally, MLA, Minister for Works and Acting Minister for Justice, and a reception was held in the Road Board Office.⁴⁰

In 1935, the local Roads Board held a referendum to obtain ratepayer approval for the building of new premises. When this proposal was lost, the Board shifted soon after into the old school in Henry Street, which had now been vacated with the building of the new *Pinjarra Court House (fmr)*.⁴¹

Regular reports were included in the local newspaper, the *South West Advertiser*, of the cases held in *Pinjarra Court House (fmr)*. During the 1930s, in addition to the standard offences related to traffic, illegal betting and other petty crimes, there were also a number of cases heard on fishing offences as a result of Pinjarra being situated on the Murray River and fishing being one of the main industries of the area. There were also cases

³⁵ Barbara van Bronswijk and Duncan Richards, *Creating the Public Realm: Public Architecture in Western Australia: 1890-2000*, PWD and the BMA, Perth, 1994, pp. 16-17.

³⁶ *Government Gazette*, 18/1/1935, p. 113 (contract no. 8464); & *South West Advertiser*, 18/1/1935, p. 1.

³⁷ PWD WA Plan # 27710, Elevation and Sections, Pinjarrah New Court House, 3/12/1934.

³⁸ PWD WA Plans # 27710, 5/534/0C: Interior of Court Room, 18/3/1935; Dock and Witness Box, 4/2/1935; Magistrate's Bench, 24/1/1935.

³⁹ *South West Advertiser*, 7/6/1935, p. 1.

⁴⁰ *South West Advertiser*, 7/6/1935, p. 1.

⁴¹ Richards, *The Murray District*, pp. 465-467.

heard relating to the railway, as Pinjarra was a major rail centre for the south-west. In March 1938, there was a major inquest into a shunting accident which dominated the newspaper while the inquiry was being heard.⁴²

In 1948, minor repairs and renovations were carried out on *Pinjarra Court House (fmr)*.⁴³ In 1955, septic tanks were installed to service the Police Station and *Pinjarra Court House (fmr)*, resulting in the old brick earth closet (the former mens' closet) at the very rear of the block being demolished, the existing brick earth closet directly behind the court house (the ladies' closet) being converted to a water closet, and an additional new brick (mens) water closet and urinal built behind the court house.⁴⁴ In 1959, a new storeroom was built on to the southern corner of *Pinjarra Court House (fmr)*.⁴⁵

In 1961, Pinjarra Lot B was resurveyed and Lot number 219 was allotted to the remaining portion of Lot B as Reserve 26081 for the purpose of Public Buildings.⁴⁶

In 1962, a new police station was built on the west side of *Pinjarra Court House (fmr)*, replacing the police station built in 1897.⁴⁷ In 1972, the storeroom was removed and additions were built onto the rear of the court house. The additions consisted of a new Magistrate's Room and a new storeroom. Both of these rooms could be accessed from a new verandah on their south-west. Internally, the previous witnesses' room was to have its passageway wall removed with a counter to be located in this position.⁴⁸ In 1977, a toilet block was built on to the rear of the storeroom at the south of *Pinjarra Court House (fmr)*.⁴⁹ There have been no significant changes to the fabric of the building since this time.

In 1989, in accordance with a Premier's Circular (45/88), the Western Australian Police Department completed a property register of all land utilised for police purposes as at March 1989. One of the purposes of this was to identify all police property because not all Reserves used for police purposes in the State were designated as such. This was the case with *Pinjarra Court House (fmr)* and Police Station Reserve 26081. As a result of compiling the register, all Reserves that were used for police purposes were vested with the Commissioner of Police. In line with this, on 13 March

⁴² *South West Advertiser*, 1935-1940, and March 1938.

⁴³ PWD WA File No. 1083/26, Pinjarrah Court House, Repairs and Renovations, 15/4/1948.

⁴⁴ PWD Plan 34516 file Nos. 1706 & 1777, 9/2/1955 'Pinjarra Police Station and Courthouse Septic Tank Installation (Dwng No. 1), in DOLA file 01927-1982-01RO Reserves – Police Reserve 26081 Pinjarra Lot 219 [held at DOLA]

⁴⁵ PWD WA File No. 694/35, Pinjarrah Court House, Proposed Store Addition, 26/7/1959.

⁴⁶ DOLA file 01927-1982-01RO Reserves – Police Reserve 26081 Pinjarra Lot 219 [held at DOLA].

⁴⁷ Cheryl Chaffer and Associates, *Pinjarra Heritage Precinct Planning Study*, 1996, Pinjarra Heritage and Design Guidelines: Police Station.

⁴⁸ PWD WA File No. 1105/72, Pinjarra Courthouse Additions 1972, Sketch Plan.

⁴⁹ PWD WA File No. 1105/72, Pinjarra Courthouse Additions, Toilet Block, May 1977.

1990, Reserve 26081, containing *Pinjarra Court House (fmr)* and Police Station, was vested with the Commissioner of Police.⁵⁰

In 1998, it was first announced that *Pinjarra Court House (fmr)* would close, in accordance with a recommendation of a Justice Ministry report, with the Mandurah Court House taking over all functions.⁵¹ This announcement stirred a great deal of ill-feeling within the local community and attracted much attention in the local press, especially given that other government services were being diminished in the Shire, including the hospital and post office.⁵² According to reports at the time, the decision was made on the basis that the magistrate only attended court in Pinjarra one or two days a month. However, it was argued by the local community that *Pinjarra Court House (fmr)* did not only function as a place for magistrate's court sitting but 'was an agency for several important services including police licensing and vehicle inspections and took an average of 60-70 payments a day for traffic fines, stamp duty and other transactions'.⁵³ As well as these functions, the court house was also used for Justice of the Peace services. Other concerns raised were that *Pinjarra Court House (fmr)* also serviced the Dwellingup community, some 24kms east of Pinjarra, and that community would be greatly disadvantaged if services were moved to Mandurah, especially as there was also no public transport from Pinjarra to Mandurah.⁵⁴

After over a year of review and uncertainty, and after several public meetings and petitioning the Minister and Ministry for Justice by the local community, it was finally agreed to keep *Pinjarra Court House (fmr)* open for at least another year. One of the outcomes of the review was that a new court case processing system, which had been developed by the Ministry for Justice, was installed at *Pinjarra Court House (fmr)*, resulting in the court becoming a work centre where casework from other, more busy, courts could be processed.⁵⁵

In 2002, the court services at *Pinjarra Court House (fmr)* were again reviewed by the Ministry for Justice, despite the reprieve given in 1999 and the new processing system that had been put in place, and it was again announced that *Pinjarra Court House (fmr)* would close as it was no longer a viable service. Despite further valiant efforts and petitioning by the Shire and the local community, including local politicians, and the great disappointment again expressed, the decision this time was not revoked. In January 2003, *Pinjarra Court House (fmr)* ceased to operate as a Magistrate's Court and all its judicial functions were transferred to a new

⁵⁰ Letter from Commissioner of Police to DOLA, 27/6/1989, in DOLA file 01927-1982-01RO Reserves – Police Reserve 26081 Pinjarra Lot 219 [held at DOLA].

⁵¹ *Coastal Times*, 6/3/1998.

⁵² Australia Post was to sell the Pinjarra Post Office to a private owner in 1999, although a post office agency still operates from there.

⁵³ *Mandurah Mail*, 26/2/1998.

⁵⁴ *Mandurah Mail*, 26/2/1998.

⁵⁵ *The Murray*, Issue 34, 3/6/1999, p. 5. The computer processing system developed for Ministry for Justice was called GENESIS.

Mandurah court complex.⁵⁶ A new lot containing *Pinjarra Court House (fmr)*, being Lot 388, was surveyed and excised from Reserve 26081 and reserved as Reserve 47238 Public Buildings, and a Management Order in the name of the Minister for Justice and Legal Affairs was issued.⁵⁷

After it's closure, the Licencing Services of the Department of Planning and Infrastructure continued to operate from *Pinjarra Court House (fmr)* two days per week. However, in 2004, this service was relocated to the Post Office next door, leaving the court house vacant. Parts of the Court House are still used occasionally for meetings by the police officers stationed next door.⁵⁸

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Pinjarra Court House (fmr) comprises a single storey rendered brick and tile court house constructed in 1935 with a single storey rendered brick addition to the rear (1972 and 1977).

Pinjarra Court House (fmr) is located on the south east side of George Street, Pinjarra. Pinjarra is a picturesque town located on the Murray River almost ninety kilometres south of Perth. This section of the main street of Pinjarra, which runs between James Street and Pinjarra Road, is bound by the Murray River to the rear of the lots. It comprises mostly single storey commercial buildings and includes a number of historic buildings. Adjacent, to the north east of the court house, is the Pinjarra Post Office, a two storey brick and tile building in the Federation Arts and Crafts style. Immediately adjacent to the south east is the cream brick single storey Police Station with elements of the Post-War International style of architecture. The Police Station quarters, also of cream brick, are located to the rear of *Pinjarra Court House (fmr)*. Also in this section of George Street is the former Roads Board, a single storey red brick and tile building with rendered string courses, in the Victorian Free Classical style.

Pinjarra Court House (fmr) is set back from the street front approximately six metres. The front setback is brick paved with a brick planter box adjacent to the front north east boundary. The brick paving and planter boxes extend to the front of the adjacent Police Station, which is set back in line with the court house. The north east boundary has been fenced with corrugated fibrous fencing. This fencing returns to the rear wall of the 1935 section of the court house. There is no clear physical indication of the south west boundary. A metal side gate has been fitted between *Pinjarra Court House (fmr)* and the Police Station on the south west side. This gate leads to the bitumen parking and access area, which runs along the south western side and to the rear of the court house. A small area of grass, planted with

⁵⁶ With the growth of Mandurah as a regional centre, some government services for the Murray district were relocated there from Pinjarra and other towns in the area,

⁵⁷ DOLA file 01927-1982-01RO Reserves – Police Reserve 26081 Pinjarra Lot 219 [held at DOLA]. Lot 387 was surveyed for the remaining land containing the Pinjarra Police Station, the reserve number staying as Reserve 26081.

⁵⁸ Information supplied by Licencing Services staff, 7 August 2003, and confirmed by Shire of Murray, 4 May 2005.

immature Gums, is formed by the concrete kerb to the rear. A grassed area to the east of the court house contains a single red brick and iron toilet.

Pinjarra Court House (fmr) is constructed in the Inter-War Georgian Revival style. Its simple rectangular form with tiled hipped roof presents a symmetrical façade to the street front. The roof features tall rendered chimneys and open eaves. The painted galvanized gutters have an ogee profile. The rendered brick has an ashlar effect to the front portion of the building, which returns with a parapet and a lower hipped roof. There are two projecting porticos – one to the front elevation and one to the side (north east) elevation.

The projecting front portico is more finely detailed and is classically inspired with rectangular piers and two 'Doric' columns supporting an entablature. The frieze is decorated with the words 'Court House'. The strongly defined cornice is headed by a pedimented parapet adorned with the Western Australian Coat of Arms. The timber framed double doors to the entry contain vertical glazed upper panels and a multi-panel fanlight. The windows to either side of the front portico are timber framed double hung. The return parapet features a string course and timber framed double hung windows, which are multi-paned to the side elevations. Painted galvanized down pipes with leader heads discharge to open ground drains to the side elevations.

The side portico, which frames the public entrance, has rendered rectangular columns and a tiled hipped roof. The double doors to this entrance each feature four raised panels. The windows to the court room are high level pivoted awning with multi-panes.

A rectangular addition to the rear has been constructed in line with the south west side elevation. It has a flat roof which sits under the level of the court room windows and a verandah with rendered brick columns running its full length.

The simple planning layout comprises a central entry foyer with a room to either side. These rooms comprise the Clerk of Courts (former Magistrate's Room) to the south west and the general office (former Witness Room) to the north east. There is evidence of the removal of most of the wall between the entry foyer and the general office. The entry foyer leads directly to the court room. A door from the Clerk of Courts room also opens to the court room. A door to the south east wall of the court room leads to the rear of the building. The public entry in the centre of the north east wall of the court room is framed by a built in timber framed entry 'cupboard' with obscured glazing to the upper panels.

The court room features built in timber fittings. These include the balustrade, with gate, across the public gallery, the magistrates bench set on a raised platform at the south west end and the witness box and dock, to either side of the bench. The magistrates bench and the witness box has been modified with timber safety rails.

The floors are timber covered in wall to wall carpet. The timber skirtings are simple 200mm high to the entry rooms and moulded 250mm high to the

court room. The doors are timber framed with timber architraves to doors and windows. All timber work is unpainted. The walls are rendered and painted. The ceilings to the front rooms are battened forming ornate patterns. The ceiling to the court room features beams which run from the two rendered relief pillars on the south east and north west walls. Between these beams the ceiling has been infilled with acoustic ceiling panels.

A central fireplace is situated on the south east wall. It features Art Deco influenced decorative render and has been fitted with a gas heater. Electrical heaters have been fitted to the south west wall. A brick fireplace with a timber mantle is located in the Clerk of Courts room. All light fittings are fluorescent tubes. Ceiling fans have been fitted to the court room and single air conditioning units to the front rooms. Recent built-in cupboards and benches have been fitted to the general office.

The rear addition comprises four rooms in lineal succession along the verandah. They comprise the magistrates room, a store and female and male toilets. They have concrete floors, which are tiled to the toilets and carpeted to the magistrate's room, rendered painted walls and plaster ceilings.

The building shows evidence of recent lack of maintenance. Externally the building shows evidence of deterioration to the paintwork. Internally there are a number of cracks to the walls in the courtroom and the front rooms. There is evidence of water damage to the ceiling in the Clerk of Courts room. There is evidence of extensive termite damage to the door and architrave between the Clerk of Courts and court room.

Pinjarra Court House (fmr) remains largely as constructed. Changes to the fabric include the removal of the flagpole to the front of the building and the replacement of the sashes to the front elevation with single pane glazing. Internally, the wall and door between the general office (former witnesses' room) has been removed and a counter located in this position. The ceiling to the court room has been modified. The built-in furniture has been modified with timber safety rails. An single storey addition has been constructed to the rear.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

Pinjarra Court House (fmr) was designed and built by the Public Works Department of Western Australia in the mid 1930s. It is a good example of a modest court house constructed in the Inter-War Georgian Revival style with Art Deco stylistic detailing.

The HCWA database lists 68 court houses throughout the state. A number of court houses are listed in association with police stations and, in some cases, gaols. Thirty-one court houses are entered in the State Register of Heritage Places. Twenty-five of the registered court houses date from the nineteenth century. No other court houses dating from the Inter-War period are listed in the State Register of Heritage Places.

The HCWA database lists four Inter-War court houses, namely *Pinjarra Court House (fmr)*, P1579 Court House (Merredin), P2770 Yalgoo Justice

Precinct and P3281 Old Wyndham Court House (fmr). Little physical evidence remains of the Old Wyndham Court House dating from 1928.⁵⁹ Yalgoo Justice Precinct includes a Federation Bungalow style court house relocated to the site in 1921, clad in corrugated iron and fibrous cement sheeting. Therefore the only comparative place on the HCWA database is the Merredin Court House. It was also designed by the Architectural Division of the Public Works Department under the direction of A.E (Paddy) Clare in 1934 and is an impressive brick and tile court house in the Inter-War Art Deco style. Located to the front setback, it has a central portico with twin Ionic columns supporting the pedimented entablature, a large central court room with associated rooms to either side and a secondary side entry. Merredin Court House remains in use as a court house and is in a good condition, with a high level of authenticity and integrity.⁶⁰

There are eleven buildings listed on the State Register of Heritage Places that are constructed in the Inter-War Georgian Revival style. None of these buildings appear to demonstrate the combination of Inter-War Georgian Revival with Art Deco decorative elements as exhibited by *Pinjarra Court House (fmr)*.

Pinjarra Court House (fmr) is rare as an extant court house constructed in Western Australia during the 1930s. Furthermore, it is the only court house in the State known to be constructed in the Inter-War Georgian Revival style. *Pinjarra Court House (fmr)* is an example of the Inter-War Georgian Revival style of architecture as applied to small-scale public buildings.

13. 4 KEY REFERENCES

No key references.

13. 5 FURTHER RESEARCH

⁵⁹ Shire of Wyndham, Municipal Heritage Inventory, Place No.37.

⁶⁰ Shire of Merredin, Municipal Heritage Inventory and PWD WA Plan File No. 2760, Merredin Court House, Proposed New Building, 31.5.34